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South West Salop United Districts

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1952

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ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

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South West Salop United Districts

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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### Medical Officer of Health

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & HY.

### Sanitary Inspectors

#### ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

†W. H. Purslow, Cert. R.S.I., Chief Inspector.

D. H. Corfield, Cert. R.S.I., Additional Inspector.

R. W. Garrood, Cert. R.S.I., Additional Inspector (resigned).

C. T. Mabbott, Cert. R.S.I., Additional Inspector.

#### BISHOP'S CASTLE BOROUGH

\*Leslie Allen, Cert. R.S.I.

#### CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

†\*K. C. T. Jacks, Cert. R.S.I.

#### CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

†\*H. Bramwell, Cert. R.S.I., Chief Inspector.

\*D. H. Young, Cert. R.S.I., Additional Inspector.

#### WENLOCK BOROUGH

C. J. Thomas, Cert. R.S.I.

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### Public Health Laboratory Service

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry)

Bacteriologist : Dr. C. A. JONES

Public Health Laboratory

Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury

Tel. No. Shrewsbury 4389

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†Meat Inspector's Certificate held.

\*Also holds the post of Surveyor or Assistant Surveyor.

# South West Salop United Districts

PONTESBURY,

1st June, 1953.

TO THE MAYORS, CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of your districts for the year ending on the 31st December, 1952.

The Registrar-General estimates the population of the combined districts at mid-summer, 1952, to be 49,470. The births numbered 875 (birth rate = 17.6), and the deaths were 569 (death rate = 11.4).

The incidence of infectious diseases was low, and such diseases caused very few deaths. There were again no cases of Diphtheria, nor of Polio-myelitis.

Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis numbered 7, and the death-rate from this disease was a new low level, being 0.141 per 1,000 of the population. Forty-two new cases were notified, of which number 24 were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cancer accounted for 109 deaths, and is now the second highest cause of death. The death-rate from this disease was 2.213 per 1,000. This is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales.

For the second year in succession there were no deaths from Puerperal causes. Infant deaths numbered 17, and the rate of 19.4 per 1,000 live births is the lowest recorded. (The rate for England and Wales was 27.6.)

Among the newer problems to be faced are the care of the aged, either in their own homes or in Institutions of one kind or another, the problem of Cancer, which disease has increased so much as a cause of death, and the control of Food Infections.

During the year a total of 261 Council houses were built in the five districts and 38 were completed by private enterprise. Of these, 120 were built in the Wenlock Borough and 89 in the Atcham Rural District. There are still a total of nearly 2,000 applicants for Council houses. Building of houses by private enterprise should now increase, as there has been a relaxation of the control of licences for these.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyors for their help with certain sections of the Report.

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

ATCHAM R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid-1952	... ..	21,080
	Area (in acres)	... ..	134,465
	Number of inhabited houses	... ..	5,757
	Rateable Value of the District	... ..	£77,564
	Estimated product of 1d. rate	... ..	£314

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BISHOP'S CASTLE M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid-1952	... ..	1,302
	Area (in acres)	... ..	1,867
	Number of inhabited houses	... ..	418
	Rateable Value of the District	... ..	£6,321
	Estimated product of 1d. rate	... ..	£25

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CHURCH STRETTON U.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid-1952	... ..	2,593
	Area (in acres)	... ..	6,085
	Number of inhabited houses	... ..	872
	Rateable Value of the District	... ..	£23,395
	Estimated product of 1d. rate	... ..	£93

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CLUN R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid-1952	... ..	9,565
	Area (in acres)	... ..	132,512
	Number of inhabited houses	... ..	3,014
	Rateable Value of the District	... ..	£25,016
	Estimated product of 1d. rate	... ..	£98

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WENLOCK M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of the		
	population—mid-1952	... ..	14,930
	Area (in acres)	... ..	22,657
	Number of inhabited houses	... ..	4,493
	Rateable Value of the District	... ..	£50,160
	Estimated product of 1d. rate	... ..	£198

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SOUTH WEST SALOP UNITED DISTRICTS	Area of the districts (in acres)	... ..	297,586
	Total estimated population	... ..	49,470
	Number of inhabited houses	... ..	14,554
	Total Rateable Value	... ..	£180,974
	Estimated product of 1d. rate	... ..	£728

## ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

## VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	360	186	174
	Illegitimate	...	...	22	16	6
	Totals...	...	...	382	202	180

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population = 19.0.

Still Births—	Legitimate	...	...	5	2	3
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
	Totals	...	...	5	2	3

Still Birth Rate = 12.9.

Deaths	...	...	...	214	113	101
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population = 10.9.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a)	From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil	—
(b)	From other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil	—
	Totals	...	...	Nil	—

Death of Infants under one year :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	7	19.4
(b)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	Nil	—
(c)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...	7	18.2

The rates for England and Wales were :—

Birth Rate : 15.3 per 1,000 of population.

Death Rate = 11.3      „      „

Deaths from	CANCER	...	...	...	...	37
„	„	TUBERCULOSIS—	Pulmonary	...	...	1
			Non-pulmonary	...	...	2
„	„	MEASLES	...	...	...	—
„	„	WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	2
„	„	POLIOMYELITIS	...	...	...	—



## BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

## VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	20	10	10
	Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
	Totals	...	...	21	10	11

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population = 19.7.

Still Births—	Legitimate	...	...	1	1	—
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
	Totals	...	...	1	1	—

Still Birth Rate = 45.6.

Deaths	...	...	...	36	27	9
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population = 17.1.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a)	From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil	—
(b)	From other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil	—
	Total	...	...	Nil	—

Deaths of Infants under one year :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	1	47.6
(b)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	—	—
(c)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...	1	45.4

The rates for England and Wales were :—

Birth Rate : 15.3 per 1,000 of population.

Death rate : 11.3           ,,           ,,

Deaths from	CANCER	...	...	...	...	8
,,	TUBERCULOSIS—	Pulmonary		...	...	—
		Non-pulmonary		...	...	—
,,	MEASLES	...	...	...	...	—
,,	WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	—
,,	POLIOMYELITIS	...	...	...	...	—



## CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

## VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	39	22	17
	Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—
	Totals	...	...	40	23	17

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population = 17.7.

Still Births—	Legitimate	...	...	2	1	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
	Totals	...	...	2	1	1

Still Birth Rate = 47.6.

Deaths	...	...	...	39	13	26
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population = 9.7.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births	
(a)	From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil	—	—
(b)	From other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil	—	—
	Total	...	...	Nil	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births	
(a)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	2	51	—
(b)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	—	—	—
(c)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...	2	50	—

The rates for England and Wales were :—

Birth rate : 15.3 per 1,000 of population.

Death Rate : 11.3                      „                      „

Deaths from	CANCER	...	...	...	...	...	6
„	„	TUBERCULOSIS—	Pulmonary	...	...	...	—
			Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	—
„	„	MEASLES	...	...	...	...	—
„	„	WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	1
„	„	POLIOMYELITIS	...	...	...	...	—

## CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

## VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	154	82	72
	Illegitimate	...	...	6	4	2
	Totals	...	...	160	86	74

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population := 20.3.

Still Births—	Legitimate	...	...	2	1	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
	Totals	...	...	2	1	1

Still Birth Rate = 12.3.

Deaths	...	...	...	93	53	40
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population = 7.8.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
(a)	From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil	—
(b)	From other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil	—
	Total	...	...	Nil	—

Deaths of Infants under one year :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	1	6.5
(b)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	—	—
(c)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...	1	6.2

The rates for England and Wales were :—

Birth Rate : 15.3 per 1,000 of population

Death Rate : 11.3 „ „

Deaths from	CANCER	...	...	...	...	21
— „ „	TUBERCULOSIS—Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	—
— „ „	Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	—
— „ „	MEASLES	...	...	...	...	—
— „ „	WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	—
— „ „	POLIOMYELITIS	...	...	...	...	—

## BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

## VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	264	146	118
	Illegitimate	...	...	8	7	1
	Totals	...	...	272	153	119

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population :=19.6.

Still Births—	Legitimate	...	...	17	8	9
	Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
	Totals	...	...	18	8	10

Still Birth Rate = 62.0.

Deaths	...	...	...	187	102	85
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Death Rate per 1,000 of population = 11.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births	
(a)	From Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil	—	
(b)	From other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil	—	
	Total	...	...	Nil	—	

Deaths of Infants under one year :—				No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births	
(a)	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	6	22.7	
(b)	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	—	—	
(c)	All infants per 1,000 total live births	...	...	6	22.0	

The rates for England and Wales were :—

Birth Rate : 15.3 per 1,000 of population.

Death Rate : 11.3                    „                    „

Deaths from	CANCER	...	...	...	...	...	39
„	„	TUBERCULOSIS—	Pulmonary	...	...	...	2
			Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	2
„	„	MEASLES	...	...	...	...	—
„	„	WHOOPIING COUGH	...	...	...	...	—
„	„	POLIOMYELITIS	...	...	...	...	—

## **SECTION A.**

### **SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS**

The total population of the five districts is estimated by the Registrar General as being 49,470 at mid-1952. There has been no very great variation in the number of the population during the last twenty years or more, the total increase in the districts being 1,322 since 1931. Atcham R.D. and Wenlock Borough have shown an increase in these years of 1,504 and 787 respectively, Clun R.D. shows a decrease of 1,108, and Church Stretton an increase of 195. At Bishop's Castle there has been a slight decrease of 50 in the same period.

Farming and allied trades are the chief industries, but there are factories in the Wenlock Borough and at Minsterley, in the Atcham District. The figures for unemployment remain low. The shortage of houses remains the chief problem still in all the areas, and there does not appear to be any lessening in the demand for Council Houses.

### **NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS**

#### **Population**

The estimate of the population given by the Registrar General for the combined districts for mid-year 1952 is 49,470. This figure is 350 less than that for the previous year.

#### **Births and Birth Rate**

The total births registered numbered 875, and the Birth Rate was 17.6 per thousand of the population (England and Wales, 15.3). The highest rate was in the Clun R.D. (20.3), and the lowest in Church Stretton U.D. (17.7).

#### **Still Births**

There were 27 stillbirths, one more than in 1951, and the Stillbirth Rate was 31.3 (England and Wales, 22.6). Eighteen of the stillbirths were registered in the Wenlock Borough, as compared with eleven in the previous year.

#### **Deaths and Death Rate**

The total deaths numbered 569, and the Death Rate was 11.4 per 1,000 (England and Wales, 11.3). The principal causes of death in each district will be found in the table at the end of the report.

**Puerperal Deaths**

No deaths from puerperal causes were notified, nor were there any in the previous year. (The rate for England and Wales was 0.72 per 1,000 total births.)

**Infantile Mortality**

There were 17 deaths among infants under the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 19.4, which is the lowest rate there is a record of. The infant death rate has been declining rapidly of late years; and is much lower than for the country as a whole, which was 27.6 in the same year (1952).

**Neo-Natal Deaths**

These are the deaths of infants under the age of four weeks, and numbered 12 out of the 17 infants who died under one year old. The Neo-Natal Death Rate was 13.7 per 1,000 related births. This is lower than the rate for the country as a whole, which was 18.9.

It will be seen that after the age of four weeks, only five of the 875 children born during the year died before reaching their first birthday. This great saving of infant life is the result of all the work which has been done to improve the health of infants during the last forty years or so. At the beginning of this century Infantile Mortality Rates of 150 were common in this country. Now, instead of 150 dying under the age of one year, there are less than 30 such deaths per thousand live births.

**Natural Increase of Population**

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 306.

## **SECTION B.**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **Staff**

The names and qualifications of the Officers in the Health Departments will be found at the beginning of the Report. The only change during the year was that caused by the resignation of Mr. R. W. Garrood in the Atcham R.D. His place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. C. T. Mabbott.

In the Atcham R.D. and the Borough of Wenlock the Inspectors are whole-time, while in the other areas they are also Surveyors or Assistant Surveyors.

#### **Laboratory Facilities**

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and samples of water, milk and ice cream are also reported on from this laboratory.

Chemical analyses are carried out at the Laboratory, Chester.

#### **Ambulance Services**

The County Council have a central ambulance depot (telephone Shrewsbury 2626), from which an ambulance can be obtained day and night. Ambulances are stationed in addition at various parts of the County, but it is best to contact the central depot if one is required. No delay in removing patients to hospital has been reported during the year.

#### **Hospitals**

Shrewsbury is the hospital centre, and particulars of the hospitals available have been given in previous Reports. Infectious diseases are treated at Monkmoor Hospital, when isolation is required. The Sanatorium for tuberculosis is at Shirlett, and orthopædic cases are treated at Oswestry. The hospital arrangements have proved adequate during the year.

#### **Nursing in the Home**

Particulars of the work carried out by District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.



## Home Help Service

At Bishop's Castle there is a Home Help for the Borough provided for by the Rachel Humphreys District Nurses' Charity. There is no charge on the Rates. The Trustees are the Mayor and Aldermen of the Borough, but it is not controlled in any way by the Corporation. Mr. F. Lavender is the Clerk to the Trustees.

The Home Help is a full-time one, and during 1952 an average number of 28 visits per week were paid by her. The services of the Home Help are free to the sick poor, but in other cases a donation is asked for.

Elsewhere in the area the Home Helps come under the County Council Scheme, and there is an office in Church Stretton. Details of the work done by this service will be found in the report of the County Medical Officer of Health. Although people making use of the services of Home Helps are expected to pay if they can, many of them are poor, and the result is that the cost of the service to the Rates is considerable, and as a result the County Council have decided not to expand the service further in the meantime. It must be remembered, however, that the cost of keeping an old person in an Institution would be much greater than the cost of a Home Help in their own home. In many cases the extra assistance given by a Home Help allows old people to remain in their own homes, where they are usually happier than in an Institution.

## Treatment Centres and Clinics

The County Council provide School Clinics and Welfare Centres at Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton and Ironbridge, and there are also Welfare Centres at Broseley and at Much Wenlock, the latter having been commenced in November, 1952. A site at Madeley has been selected, and the County Council intend to erect a Welfare Centre there, as it is the chief centre of population in the Wenlock Borough. There is still need for a Welfare Centre at Pontesbury, in the Atcham R.D., where considerable new housing development has taken place since the war.

The following are the days when the Clinics are open :—

Bishop's Castle :	First and third Fridays
Church Stretton :	First and third Thursdays
Ironbridge :	Friday afternoons—weekly
Broseley :	Thursday afternoons—fortnightly
Much Wenlock :	Tuesday—fortnightly

## Venereal Diseases Clinic

This is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, at the following times :—

Males :	Tuesdays and Fridays, 6–8 p.m.
Females :	Mondays and Wednesdays, 2–4 p.m.



**Chest Clinic**

This is held at 17 Belmont, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 3068). Cases are usually referred to the Chest Physicians by their own doctors.

A survey was carried out during September and October by the Wolverhampton Mass Radiography Unit, and approximately 7,000 persons were X-rayed. These included cases coming from within five miles of the centre of Shrewsbury, so some of them would be from the Atcham Rural District. As a result of the survey, a total of 16 cases of active respiratory tuberculosis was discovered, and this gives a rate slightly below that found in the country as a whole. The cases X-rayed included children as well as adults.

**Diphtheria Immunisation**

As in former years, children can be immunised against diphtheria at schools, Welfare Centres, or at home by their own doctors. Application should be made to the County Health Department or to private doctors. In every case the immunisation is carried out free of cost to the parents.

If the parents so desire, their children may also receive inoculations against whooping cough, and these are combined with the diphtheria inoculations. The last case of diphtheria in any of the Districts was in 1949. Owing to the absence of the disease, it is perhaps natural that parents may be inclined to think that there is not the same danger as formerly, but they would be well advised to have their young children protected still, as diphtheria has not yet been wholly eradicated in the country, and might still be introduced into any district. In such a case it would be the unprotected children who would be attacked by it.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This section of the Report deals with matters concerned with environmental hygiene such as water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, public cleansing, rodent control, and the inspection of factories and workshops, etc.

In order to facilitate reference to these matters, each district is dealt with separately in the following pages, and in alphabetical order. I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyors for most of the facts and figures in this section and in the following section dealing with housing, and would like to thank them for the help they have given.

#### ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

##### Water Supplies

No shortage of water was experienced from the Council's two main supplies at Ford and Pimhill. The pumping and rest water levels in the boreholes remain reasonably constant. The total length of mains now in service is  $121\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The following figures show the numbers of properties served by these two supplies :—

			Properties served	Change in 12 months
Keys for stand-pipes ...	...	...	673	— 23
Domestic connections ...	...	...	1,562	+290
Metered supplies ...	...	...	558	+124

##### Purity of Supplies

Samples are taken monthly and submitted for bacteriological examination. Both supplies are chlorinated at source. The following figures show the results of the examinations :—

Source		Total samples	Number Satis- factory	Number unsatis- factory
West Atcham ...	...	40	38	2
Pimhill ...	...	71	66	5

A large number of samples were also taken from private domestic supplies, and from the new mains before they were put into use.

The borehole at Uckington, on the Atcham Aerodrome, has been completed, but the test for yield showed that it would be unwise to attempt to obtain the required half-million gallons from it per 24 hours owing to sluggish water level recovery.

## **Other Schemes**

The Emstrey scheme, in which a 4 in. main is at present nearing completion, will provide water to County Council smallholdings and other farms between the Shrewsbury Borough boundary and Atcham Bridge. Water is being obtained in bulk from Shrewsbury Corporation.

Short extensions to the mains have been made at Buildwas and on the Condover housing site.

A submersible electric pump has been installed at Wallop to feed the Council's houses and neighbouring farms.

At Church Preen the Council's housing site is to be supplied with water from the borehole which has been recently sunk. A pump-house with submersible electrical pumping equipment is to be constructed in the middle of 1953.

The extended housing development at Cross Houses is to obtain its water needs from the hospital supply, and the water mains required have recently been laid. A condition of the supply is that a reserve tank of 6,000 gallons capacity be installed. This will be in the form of an elevated tank on a steel structure to be situated within the hospital grounds, and fed from the hospital pumping station. From the tank water will be delivered to the housing site by 3 in. mains. The scheme has been designed, and is awaiting approval of the Hospital Board and of the Ministry.

A scheme to extend and improve the Picklescote water supply and to include Smethcote has been designed.

## **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

Schemes for the villages of Minsterley and Hanwood have been prepared, and that for Bomere Heath partly prepared. As housing development is already taking place or is to take place soon in these villages, it has been decided to construct temporary disposal schemes so as not to hold up the building of houses and until the permanent schemes can be constructed.

## **Bayston Hill**

A tender for the construction of 6 in. and 12 in. sewers to connect the proposed housing site at Upper Pulley with the sewer of the Shrewsbury Borough has been sent to the Ministry for approval. It is probable that this scheme should be completed late in 1953.

## **Cressage**

A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme to serve only the immediate housing development of the Council has been prepared. This also should be completed late in 1953.

### **Eaton Constantine, Garmston and Longwood**

A comprehensive sewerage and sewage disposal system for these three villages is intended when the economic situation eases. For the moment a scheme to serve the proposed housing development at Eaton Constantine is under preparation.

Sewage disposal works to serve new or extended Council housing development have been or soon will be completed at Atcham, Bomere Heath, Buildwas, Condover, Cruckton, Ford and Church Preen, whilst that at Minsterley is likely to be completed in late 1953. A scheme for the sewerage of the proposed housing site at Grafton is also being prepared.

### **Refuse Disposal**

This important work of the Local Authority has now been transferred from the Surveyor's Department to that of the Sanitary Inspector as from 1st June, 1952. The Council undertake a collection throughout the area, and there are two refuse vehicles, each one serving one-half of the district. The collection is a fortnightly one except in a few isolated areas where the collection is less frequent, e.g. monthly.

The two vehicles are of seven cubic yards capacity, but the Council have now decided to replace one of these by a larger vehicle which will take the whole of one day's collection in one journey and thus save on mileage.

There are five "tips" in use, at Cross Houses, Asterley, Westbury, Montford Bridge, and Merrington Green. "Tips" at Kenley, Pontesbury and Leebotwood have now been closed. The "tip" at Cross Houses abuts on two main roads, but is kept in good order, and no nuisance exists, as all deposited refuse is covered within 48 hours. It is intended to control the other "tips" in the same way. Regular visits are paid to the "tips" by the Rodent Officer in order to keep any rat infestation down to a minimum.

Mr. Purslow states that an approximate tonnage of 3,000 was deposited at the "tips" during the year, and that the vehicles carry an average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons to them at each load. A fly nuisance at Cross Houses was complained of in the summer months, but treatment of the "tip" with a suitable dressing was successful in controlling this.

### **Salvage**

It has been almost impossible to find a market for waste paper, as the demand for this has fallen off. Householders have therefore been advised to burn as much of their waste paper as possible.

An accumulation of salvaged waste paper was transferred from Lythwood Hall to Hanwood, as the premises at Lythwood Hall were required by the owner for conversion.



### Sanitary Inspectors' Visits

The following list gives the number of visits of inspection paid by the Inspectors during the year. It will be seen that the great majority of inspections were made in connection with housing and housing maintenance, etc., and that next in number were those paid in connection with refuse collection, drainage, water supplies, and inspections of premises under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act.

	Number of Visits
Visits in connection with housing applications and new tenancies ... ..	1,020
Housing maintenance ... ..	726
Refuse collection and disposal ... ..	288
Drainage ... ..	241
Water supplies ... ..	226
Visits under Section 13, Food and Drugs Act ...	117
Caravans and temporary dwellings ... ..	76
Inspections under Housing Acts ... ..	66
Ice Cream premises ... ..	46
Under Pests Act ... ..	33
Infectious diseases ... ..	28
Milk supplies ... ..	17
Verminous premises ... ..	11

In addition to the above visits, a large number of visits were paid in connection with other matters bearing on public health. The control of pasteurisation plants is now under the County Health Department, and the supervision of the milk supply at farms passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1949. This accounts for the smaller number of visits paid in connection with milk supplies.

A total of 25 Statutory Notices were served during the year, of which 17 were with regard to water supplies, and the remainder in connection with drainage matters.

## BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

### Water Supply

As in many previous years, a shortage of water was experienced from July till October. During part of this time the water was turned off from 9 p.m. until 7.30 a.m. each day. A temporary shortage was also experienced in February due to bursts in service pipes and in the distributing main.

Repairs were carried out during the year to the existing service reservoir at the Cabin. This included the installation of an access ladder and testing the reservoir for leakages.

The Surveyor states that owing to the increased number of houses on the supply and the increased use of water generally, he is of the opinion that a dry summer will cause a very acute water shortage in the Borough. This has been pointed out in previous Reports, but so far no suitable additional supply has been obtained.

The Council have at present under consideration a plan to obtain a supplementary supply of about 20,000 gallons per 24 hours from a borehole in Oak Meadow. The Surveyor has prepared a report on this proposal which appears to offer a solution to the problem. The water would be pumped directly into the service main in times of shortage.

Ten samples of water were submitted for bacteriological report during the year, and of these eight were satisfactory.

### **Sewers and Sewage Disposal**

A new length of sewer has been laid at the Council's housing estate and connected to the main sewer. This will carry sewage from twelve houses. Several new connections have been made to the sewers, and these include connections to the public lavatories.

An application has been received to connect the High School to the sewerage system, but this has not yet been agreed to. The Council are getting the opinion of a Consulting Engineer on the present works with a view to ascertaining if the works are able to take more sewage without being overloaded.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Weekly collection is carried out by contract. A request was made during the year to householders to burn as much of their refuse as possible so as to reduce the amount which has to be removed. This will enable the tip to be used for a longer time.

### **Salvage Collection**

There is no collection of salvage in the town.

### **Rodent Control**

The Council share the services of an official with the Clun R.D.C. He works for the Borough for one week in six. Contracts are made with owners of business premises to control rats.

## **CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT**

### **Water Supplies**

The Surveyor reports that there has been no shortage of water from the three supplies during the year. All the new houses completed in 1952 (44) have been connected to the mains, and there are

now 734 houses on the mains out of a total of 872 in the district. The extension of the mains to Marshbrook, in the Ludlow Rural District, is now almost completed, and this extension will serve a number of houses which had no mains supply.

Delays have occurred with regard to the work on the borehole at Sandford Avenue, from which source it is hoped to obtain an additional supply for the district. During the last few summers there has not been any extensive drought, but if a dry summer does come, there will almost certainly be a shortage of water, as the consumption has increased considerably of late years due to the building of new houses and general increase in the demand for water from all users. It is therefore of importance that the new source should be made available as soon as possible.

### **Purity of Supplies**

The three main supplies come from the Longmynd Hill, and they are all chlorinated, but not filtered, before going to supply. In dry seasons the amount of water entering the supplies is inclined to drop very considerably. The following figures show the results of bacteriological sampling of the supplies.

Source	Total Samples	Satis- factory Samples	Unsatis- factory Samples
New Pool Hollow	... 11	9	2
Town Brook Hollow	... 9	7	2
All Stretton	... 21	21	—

It will be noticed that since the Council became responsible for the chlorination of the All Stretton supply, the results have been very much better.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

All the new houses have been connected to the sewers. No progress has been made with regard to the Council's schemes for sewerage at Little Stretton or at All Stretton. In the case of the latter area, the Council have decided to wait until a complete sewerage and disposal scheme can be carried out. No sample of effluent was taken from the works at Little Stretton, and no complaints were received, but I would advise that a sample of effluent be taken in 1953.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

There is no change to report on the system of collection and disposal. A weekly collection is made.



## **Salvage**

A skeleton scheme is in operation only, due to the lack of demand for salvage.

## **Pest Control**

The Council have continued with the arrangement by which the employee of the Ludlow R.D.C. works in Church Stretton during one week in every two months. During the year 692 premises were inspected, and 39 of these were found to be infested in a minor degree, and all were treated.

# **CLUN RURAL DISTRICT**

## **Water Supplies**

The Surveyor reports that there was not any serious shortage of water during the year, though at Bucknell there was difficulty in maintaining a full supply, and the new borehole is not yet in use.

A 1 in. main was extended at Chirbury for 400 yards, and now serves five cottages, which previously had to get water from a well and spring.

There were complaints of failure of small local supplies in the Pentervin and Meadowtown areas resulting in difficulties for farmers in these districts. The Council have a new scheme awaiting approval which would help part of this area.

## **New Water Supply Schemes**

Approval to proceed with the following schemes submitted to the Ministry has not yet been received, namely :—

- i. Chirbury, Marton, Rorrington, Bent Lont, etc.
- ii. Linley, More, Norbury, Wentnor.
- iii. Edgton.

It is hoped to develop part of the More scheme to supply water to the sixteen new Council houses at Lydham as efforts to get a good supply near the site have not been successful.

With regard to the Council's scheme to obtain a supply for Stiperstones and Snailbeach, permission has now been obtained from the Ministry to bore near the spring at Mytton's Dingle, and it is hoped that an adequate supply may be obtained there. So far the samples taken from the spring have proved to be satisfactory.

### Reports on Water Samples, 1952

The following are the results of bacteriological examinations of water samples taken during the year :—

Supply				Total samples	Number satis- factory	Number unsatis- factory
Bucknell	...	...	...	4	3	1
Newcastle	...	...	...	6	4	2
Marton	...	...	...	5	2	3
Knighton	...	...	...	4	2	2
Chirbury	...	...	...	3	1	2
Clunbury	...	...	...	2	2	—
Brockton (Worthen)...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Clungunford	...	...	...	3	3	—
Aston-on-Clun	...	...	...	2	2	—
Clun	...	...	...	3	3	—
Kempton	...	...	...	2	2	—
Clunton	...	...	...	1	1	—

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Surveyor reports that improvements have been carried out on some of the Council's plants serving groups of Council houses, but that otherwise no new works have been carried out. Schemes are required for some of the larger villages, e.g. Clun, Worthen and Brockton.

### Refuse Collection

There is still no general scheme of collection of refuse in the area, but schemes are in operation on a parish basis at Clun, Lydbury North and Stowe, the work being carried out by contract. It is hoped shortly to commence a scheme at Worthen, where it is needed. The other rural areas in South Shropshire have all got a general collection of refuse in their areas, and although the Clun R.D. is very scattered, it is hoped that some scheme may soon be brought into being which would include such of the area which is accessible for vehicles.

### Pest Control

The work of controlling rats, etc., has continued during the year, and villages, rubbish tips, etc., have been regularly treated, the poison used being Warfarin, which has proved highly successful. Some farms adjacent to villages have also been dealt with. Two men are employed, and work five weeks for the Rural District Council and one for the Bishop's Castle Corporation in every six weeks.

### Salvage Collection

This collection has not been recommenced, and it is not proposed at present to do so in the near future.

## BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

### Water Supply

The main supply to the district is that from Beckbury, and this proved sufficient in amount during the year for the areas served. The two wells at Much Wenlock have also proved adequate in amount. At Little Wenlock water had to be carried during the summer months, as in previous years, as no new supply has yet been decided on for this village. The Beckbury supply and the water from the wells at Much Wenlock are chlorinated before use.

As regards purity of supplies, the following are the results of bacteriological examinations of samples taken during the year :—

Supply			Total	Number of Samples	
				Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Beckbury	...	...	20	20	—
Much Wenlock	...	...	17	17	—
Other sources	...	...	7	4	3

A complaint was received during the year regarding the presence of vegetable matter in water taken from a tap in a house at Madeley. The matter was reported to the East Shropshire Water Board, who are the water undertakers. Samples, examined both bacteriologically and chemically, were taken at the time, but proved satisfactory.

It is probable that the reservoir concerned requires cleaning.

The following is a copy of the report on a sample of the Beckbury supply (chemical) :—

						Parts per Million
Total solid matter in solution	...	...	...	...	...	290.0
Nitrogen in nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	1.5
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Chlorine in chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	50.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Lead, copper, zinc	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of the sediment	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	...	220.0
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH value	...	...	...	...	...	7.2

This sample contains no sediment even after standing for ten days, the chemical analysis being satisfactory. The water is a hard one.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.,  
Public Analyst.

Chester, 24th November, 1952.

At Homer there are two public wells, which are protected but the water is not treated. Nothing further has been done in the way of bringing a piped supply to the village, the Water Board having decided not to proceed with the matter at present.

At the Council's Bourton houses a complaint was received of odour and taste from the supply. A sample taken at the ram proved satisfactory, but two samples taken from a tap at No. 2 Council Houses were found to contain faecal coli (13 and 25 faecal coli in 100 ml. of water).

A sample for chemical examination was also taken, and it proved to be satisfactory and free from taste or odour.

At Preen's Eddy the main supply has not yet been taken across the River Severn, and the inhabitants have still to carry water.

### **Sewers and Sewage Disposal**

The Surveyor reports that a new disposal works has been constructed at the Fish House, Broseley, to deal with sewage from new and existing housing estates and from parts of the Broseley Wood area.

The Hill Top Disposal Works, Ironbridge, are overloaded, and an inquiry has been held (1953) with regard to their extension, but at the time of writing, the Ministry have not yet intimated the result of the inquiry. If the extensions can be proceeded with, this will enable the Council to begin the further building of houses at the Beech Road site.

The works at Madeley and Much Wenlock appear to be overloaded to a lesser extent. Samples of effluents taken in 1951 from these two works showed that the amount of solids in suspension was above the recommended figure. A further sample of the effluent at Madeley is being taken this summer (1953).

New sewers have been laid for housing estates at King Street, Broseley, and Beech Road, Madeley. New drains have been provided by the owners of a few properties and water closets substituted for pail closets or privies.

### **Refuse Disposal**

A weekly collection is carried out in the major portion of the district and the outlying parts are served either fortnightly or monthly.

Disposal is by tipping at Ironbridge, Broseley and Much Wenlock. A new tip on the Sheinton Road, Much Wenlock, has come into use during the year.

### **Night Soil Collection**

A night soil collection service is operated in the Madeley Ward only, the night soil being disposed of at the Madeley Sewage Works.

## Salvage Collection

No collection of salvage has been operated during the year.

## Pest Control

The Council have continued the plan of sharing an employee with the Bridgnorth Corporation to deal with rats. The man devotes two-thirds of his time working for the Wenlock Council and the remaining third to Bridgnorth.

During the year the following premises, etc., have been dealt with :—

Factories	...	...	...	...	9
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	4
Private houses	...	...	...	...	150
Council properties	...	...	...	...	12

The tips have also been dealt with, and the sewers in Madeley, Broseley and Much Wenlock.

## Inspections by the Sanitary Inspector

Housing inspections	...	...	...	521
Complaints received	...	...	...	62
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	14
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	14
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	9
Privies repaired	...	...	...	12
Over-crowding cases reported	...	...	...	25
New water closets fitted	...	...	...	12
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	45
Repairs to houses	...	...	...	52
Verminous houses disinfested	...	...	...	5
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	14

## FACTORY ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Local Authorities enforce Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factory Acts in such factories where no power is employed. In factories where there is power employed, the Local Authority enforces Section 7 dealing with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

The District Council have also to satisfy themselves that adequate means of escape are provided in the event of fire in factories where more than twenty persons are employed, or where more than ten persons are employed above the ground floor. Certificates must be granted to the firms concerned.

The Sanitary Inspectors have supplied the following details regarding inspections carried out in 1952 :—

District	No. on Register	No. of Inspect.	Written Notices	Defects found	Defects remedied
Atcham R.D. ...	90	148	17	38	35
Bishop's Castle ...	27	34	4	4	2
Church Stretton ...	22	52	—	—	—
Clun R.D. ...	24	30	4	5	3
Wenlock M.B. ...	88	108	—	9	9



## SECTION D.

### HOUSING

During the year under review a total of 261 Council houses were completed in the five districts, and there were 38 built by private enterprise. These figures compare favourably with 118 Council houses and 13 private ones built in 1951.

Of the total number built, 89 were in the Atcham R.D. and 120 in the Borough of Wenlock. In the latter area it is expected that the total number of Council houses will reach one thousand by the end of 1953. This will equal nearly 25 per cent. of all the houses in the Borough of Wenlock.

At the end of the year a further total of 274 houses were under construction by the Councils and 38 by private enterprise.

The demand for houses continues in all the areas, and at the end of the year the number of applications was approximately 1,916 for the five districts. Many of these applications come from families living in unfit houses which, but for the war, would have been demolished some years ago.

The building of houses by private enterprise is now much less difficult than formerly, and licences may be obtained for houses of up to 1,000 square feet of floor space without difficulty. Approval under building bye-laws and planning has, of course, still to be obtained.

The former limit of £100 for repair and maintenance to private dwelling-houses was increased during the year to £200 (i.e. that was the amount which could be spent without a licence), and since 1st January, 1953, the amount is £500. There is therefore no hindrance to repairs being carried out from the licence aspect. The factor which does prevent essential repairs to property is the one of cost. Materials and labour have increased by 300 per cent, and at the same time rents are restricted and tenants have security of tenure. Improvement grants under the Housing Acts of 1949 and 1952 have not been taken advantage of as was expected for the same reasons. The Housing Act, 1952, extended these grants to " tied " cottages, which were excluded by the Act of 1949. It is also possible that owners of property are not fully aware of the grants which may be obtained for improvements to their cottages. The Atcham Council have taken steps to draw the attention of farmers and others who own " tied " cottages to the fact that they can now apply for grants.

Councils have found it necessary during the year to raise the rents of their houses to an economic level. Rates also show a tendency to increase, and this means that tenants of new Council houses have to pay a rent several times as high as they have been doing in the past. In some cases the tenancy of a Council house has



been refused on this account. If a higher rent has to be paid it is obvious that a reduction in expenditure has to be made in other directions. If food is reduced, then the health of a family, and especially of children who are growing, may be adversely affected. It is therefore of importance that a family should not have to pay a rent which is beyond their means to do. This is of especial importance in families where there are one or more cases of tuberculosis, as in these cases extra milk and other foods are of great importance in order that resistance to the disease may be maintained.

### ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses in the district	...	5,757
Number of houses owned by the Council	...	529
Total number of houses completed in 1952—		
Council	... ..	89
Private	... ..	18
Number of improvement grants applied for	...	15
Number of additional dwellings provided by conversion	... ..	4
Number of applications for houses	... ..	814

The Surveyor has supplied the following figures, which show the sites on which houses were completed during the year, and also the number of houses and their sites which were under construction on the 31st December, 1952. The number of houses to be built in 1953 are also given :—

Site	Completed 1952	Under construction at 31/12/52	To be commenced in 1953
Buildwas ... ..	14	22	—
Atcham ... ..	12	—	—
Longnor ... ..	8	—	—
Castle Pulverbach	8	—	—
Cruckton ... ..	12	—	—
Pontesbury ... ..	4	10	—
Ford ... ..	31	9	—
Condoover ... ..	—	26	—
Church Preen ... ..	—	6	—
Bomere Heath ... ..	—	14	—
Minsterley... ..	—	18	32
Cross Houses ... ..	—	38	—
Cressage ... ..	—	—	30
Eaton Constantine	—	—	12
Grafton ... ..	—	—	18
Totals ... ..	89	147	92

The total of 89 houses completed compares favourably with the total for 1951, which was 34.

Of the 15 applications for Improvement Grants under the 1949 Housing Act, 12 were approved by the Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The conditions under which several families are living in huts on the Atcham airfield are still unsatisfactory, although the Council have rehoused some of them. Several of these families are "squatters," and have come from other districts.

At Grafton also there are huts which are damp and not suitable as dwellings. It has been previously pointed out that it would not be wise to spend any large amount on improvement of these huts as they might then tend to become permanent, and this is not to be encouraged. The Council have now received sanction to have the huts demolished as soon as they are vacated by the tenants being rehoused.

The Inspector reports that during the year a total of 13 cases of over-crowding were rehoused, 9 families in permanent houses and 4 families in hutments.

56 families in all were rehoused in hutments and 6 in flats. The following are some details of the new houses let during the year, i.e. with regard to the numbers in the families, etc.

Site	No. of Houses	No. in Family	No. let to Agric. Workers	No. let to ex-Service Men	Av. No. per House
Longnor	6	27	1	4	4.5
Cruckton	12	53	3	5	4.4
Pontesbury	4	19	—	2	4.75
Pulverbatch	8	36	—	3	4.5
Buildwas	20	86	2	13	4.3
Ford	40	123	2	26	3.07
Totals	90	344	8	53	3.82

It will be seen that of the total number of houses, 59 per cent were let to ex-Servicemen and 9 per cent to agricultural workers.

The Council now own 10 per cent of all the houses in the district.

### BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	418
Number of houses owned by Council	...	...	...	...	68
Number of Improvement Grants applied for	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses completed in 1952	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of applications for houses	...	...	...	...	32
Houses allotted by Ministry for 1953	...	...	...	...	10
Number of houses under construction as at 31/12/52—					
Council	...	...	...	...	12
Private	...	...	...	...	2

## New Houses

12 new houses are being constructed at the Kerry Green site. 10 of these are in a terrace, and the other 2 are a pair. 8 of these houses are of the three bedroom type and 4 are two-bedroomed. The latter are intended for elderly couples who do not require a larger house. When these houses are completed, the Council will own 80 out of the total of the 431 houses which will then be the total number in the Borough. This is roughly 20 per cent or one-fifth of the houses.

## Improvement Grants

One application for a grant was approved by the Council and the Ministry, and the work concerned is now almost completed. Under the Housing Act, 1952, these grants can now be given for "tied" cottages, which have hitherto been excluded. It is of importance however to note that the grants are not given for repairs, but only if the property is improved in one way or another.

## Overcrowding

No new case of overcrowding has been reported during the year, but there is still one case in the town where the family have not yet been rehoused.

## Unfit Houses

No complete survey of all the lower-rated houses has yet been carried out. The Surveyor has made a rough estimate of the number of houses in different categories :—

Number fit in all respects	...	...	...	...	294
Number requiring minor repairs	...	...	...	...	40
Number requiring reconditioning	...	...	...	...	64
Number which should be demolished	...	...	...	...	20

Mr. Allen estimates that the number of houses required to replace those which should be demolished and to relieve over crowdings is approximately 21.

## CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	872
Number of houses owned by the Council	...	...	...	...	149
Number of applications for Council houses	...	...	...	...	58
Number of houses allocated for 1953	...	...	...	...	29
Number of houses completed in 1952—					
Council	...	...	...	...	36
Private	...	...	...	...	8
Number of houses under construction as at 31st	...	...	...	...	...
December, 1952	...	...	...	...	4
Number of applications for Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	Nil

## New Houses

The 36 houses at Prossers Yard were completed during the year. These include 7 houses of two bedrooms, 27 of three bedrooms, and 2 of four bedrooms. In addition to these houses, 8 houses were completed by private enterprise. At the end of the year, 4 private houses were under construction.

## Overcrowding

The Surveyor reports that no cases of overcrowding were brought to his notice during the year.

The Surveyor estimates that there are 29 houses in the district which require reconditioning, but that there are none which require demolition as being unfit and unable to be made fit at a reasonable cost.

No applications were received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, or the Act of 1952.

The building of the 8 houses at All Stretton has again had to be postponed owing to the lack of progress as regards the new sewerage and sewage disposal works in that area of the district.

Generally speaking, the housing problem in Church Stretton appears to be getting less acute, and it will be seen that there are only 58 applications on the housing list.

Mr. Jacks estimates that 734 of the total number of houses have a piped water supply laid to the house, and that 9 houses get water from stand-pipes. A few houses in the outlying parts of the area get water from springs or wells.

Of the total number of houses, 655 are connected to public sewers, and 197 have private disposal plants which are satisfactory.

## CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses (31/12/53)	...	...	3,014
Number of houses owned by Council...	...	...	198
Number of applications for Council houses	...	...	242
Number of Improvement Grants	...	...	1

Total number of houses built in 1952—

Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Houses under construction as at 31/12/52 (Council houses, 28)	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
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The following are the sites on which Council houses were built during the year or were under construction at 31st December, 1952 :—

Site	Completed 1952				Under construction 31/12/52
Amblecote ... ..	...	...	...	4	—
Brockton (Worthen) ... ..	...	...	...	12*	—
Chirbury ... ..	...	...	...	—	12†
Lydham ... ..	...	...	...	—	16
	...	...	...	—	—
Totals ... ..	...	...	...	16	28
Private houses ... ..	...	...	...	6	5
	...	...	...	—	—
Grand totals ... ..	...	...	...	22	33
	...	...	...	==	==

\* Gregory Flats.

† Eight Gregory Flats

At Aston Hall work is still in progress for the provision of 10 flats. As regards the 1953 programme, it is hoped to commence 12 houses at Bucknell and 22 at Clun.

If the water supply for Snailbeach proves satisfactory, it is hoped to start building there as soon as possible, and it is planned to commence with 36 houses as a first part of the scheme for the new village.

Although one improvement grant was approved during the year, no work has yet been commenced on the cottage concerned, nor has the one approved in 1951 been made use of. It would appear, therefore, that even with the help of a grant, the owners are not anxious to spend money on their properties. The high costs of material and labour may account for this. Grants are now available under the 1952 Housing Act for tied cottages, and it is hoped that farmers may make use of the grants to improve their cottages. One of the reasons for workers leaving the country is no doubt that modern amenities are so often lacking in farm cottages, and the workers' wives will not consider living under such conditions.

### BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

Number of inhabited houses ... ..	...	...	...	4,493
Number of houses owned by the Council ... ..	...	...	...	954
Houses completed in 1952—				
Council ... ..	...	...	...	120
Private ... ..	...	...	...	6
Number of applications for Council houses ... ..	...	...	...	772
Improvement Grants applied for ... ..	...	...	...	Nil
Demolition Orders made in 1952 ... ..	...	...	...	14
Council Houses under construction as at 31/12/52				78



Of the total number of applications for Council houses in the Borough, the following are the figures for the individual wards :—

Ward	Applications
Madeley ... ..	427
Broseley ... ..	165
Much Wenlock ... ..	160
Barrow ... ..	20

It will be seen that the number of applications (772) for new houses is higher than at the end of 1951, when there were 661 applications. The greatest demand for houses is in the Madeley Ward, and it is hoped that the plan to build a large number of houses on Site "D" at Beech Road will help to improve the position.

### New Houses

A total of 116 Wimpey houses and four flats were completed by the Council during the year and six houses were built by private enterprise. At the end of the year a total of 78 Council houses and two private houses were under construction. Of the Council houses 20 were Wimpey houses and there were 4 flats.

Site	Completed in 1952	Under construction 31/12/52	To be commenced 1953
Beech Road, Madeley—			
Site "O" ... ..	66+4 flats	8	2+8 flats
King Street, Broseley ...	50	12	62
Benthall ... ..	—	8	—
St. Mary's Road, M.W....	—	10+4 flats	—
Southfield Road, M.W....	—	8	—
New Road, Broseley ...	—	28	—
Beech Road, Madeley—			
Site "D" ... ..	—	—	134*

\* The building of these houses depends on the approval of the Ministry to the extension of the Hill Top Sewage Disposal Works.

A land-slip took place at Jackfield, in the Broseley Ward, during the year, and this caused considerable damage to a number of houses in that area. 18 houses were affected, and 14 families had to be rehoused at short notice by the Council, the other families being able to find other accommodation by themselves. Of these 18 houses, 8 are being demolished, the remaining 10 being unfit for habitation. The causes of the land-slip are being investigated by the Ministry of Works.

**Unfit Houses**

A total of 16 Demolition Orders were made during the year, but owing to the extreme shortage of houses it has not been possible to deal with all the houses which would normally be placed in Category V, i.e. unfit for habitation.

The Inspector reports that 521 housing inspections were made and 25 cases of overcrowding were reported during the year. Repairs were carried out to 52 houses, and 5 houses were disinfested on account of vermin. In 45 cases, defective drains were repaired, and 14 Statutory Notices were served, all of which were complied with.



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### **Meat Inspection**

The slaughtering of animals for human food is still carried out at the Ministry of Food's premises at Shrewsbury and Craven Arms. Inspection of the meat is conducted by the Inspectors at Shrewsbury and by the Inspectors of the Ludlow R.D.C. at Craven Arms. No serious outbreak of any food poisoning was reported during the year, although six cases were notified in the Atcham R.D. The food concerned in these six cases was not discovered, although careful investigation of the probable causes was made. It is difficult to discover the causal organisms in such cases, as it is very seldom that any portion of any suspected food is available for examination in the laboratory.

At these slaughter houses the percentage of animals found to be suffering from tuberculosis or other diseases is considerable, and this shows how important it is for all carcasses to be examined by qualified Meat Inspectors before being passed as fit for human consumption. Tuberculosis is most frequently met with among cows sent for slaughter, the percentage of the animals affected at Craven Arms slaughter house in 1951 being 37.8 per cent.

The Ministry of Food have built a few new slaughter houses, and have planned to build more at different parts of the country, but it is their intention to give up control of such premises when meat rationing comes to an end. It is unlikely, however, that we shall return to conditions prevailing before the war, when there were twelve thousand or more private slaughter houses in the country. Some form of central premises seems to be the best way in which all meat can be examined conveniently.

#### **Milk**

A total of 28 samples of milk were taken in the districts during the year. Pasteurising licences are held by the following dairies in the districts :—

Hanwood Dairies, Ltd. : Hanwood.

Hygienic Dairy : Ironbridge.

Pasteurised milk is now supervised by the County Health Department.

In two cases during the year reports were received of tubercle bacilli being found in milk produced in the districts, and in both these cases notice was served on the producer requiring him to have

all milk produced on the farm pasteurised or heat treated before being sold for human consumption. Close co-operation is maintained in these cases with the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, who are responsible for the supervision of milk supplies at the farms.

No outbreak of any milk-borne disease was reported during the year, nor were there any cases of undulant fever, which, in this country, is nearly always milk-borne.

It is hoped that a pasteurising plant may soon be in operation at Church Stretton when suitable premises are obtained.

It cannot be stressed too often that the only **safe** milk is milk which has been pasteurised efficiently and thus rendered free from all living germs of disease.

### Ice Cream

A total of 95 samples of ice cream were sent by the Inspectors to the Laboratory during the year. The reports on these samples show that 88 per cent of these samples fell into Grades I or II. The Ministry's recommendation is that 80 per cent of all samples should fall into these Grades, so that these results can be considered satisfactory. It is essential that samples should reach the Laboratory within two hours of being taken. The following are the numbers for the districts in which samples were taken :—

Area		Total samples I and II	Number in Grade				Percentage in Grades
			I	II	III	IV	
Atcham R.D.	...	30	21	6	2	1	90%
Church Stretton U.D.		27	19	4	3	1	85%
Wenlock M.B.	...	38	27	7	—	4	90%
		—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	...	95	67	17	5	6	88%
		==	==	==	==	==	==

In cases where the samples fell below Grade II, the Inspectors visited the premises and advised re better methods of production and handling the ice cream. No outbreak of any disease due to the consumption of ice cream was reported during the year, but only by sampling and by the supervision of plants and shops can such epidemics be safeguarded against.

### Unsound Food Condemned

The Inspectors report that the following amounts of foodstuffs were condemned and destroyed during the year. In most cases the shopkeepers concerned asked the Inspectors to examine the food which they suspected of being unsound.

## ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Vegetables and soups	...	...	...	30 tins
Fruit and fruit juice	...	...	...	29 tins
Milk	...	...	...	113 tins
Fish	...	...	...	21 tins
Various meats	...	...	...	21 tins
Cheese	...	...	...	14 lbs.

## BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

Foodstuffs—various (in packets)	...	...	12 lbs.
Tinned meat...	...	...	11 lbs.
Beef	...	...	60 lbs.
Pork	...	...	20 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	18 lbs.

## CHURCH STRETTON U.D.

Various foodstuffs	...	...	...	1,014 tins
Butter	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	27 lbs.
Pork pies	...	...	...	28

## CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

The Inspector reports that only a small quantity of food has been condemned during the year, consisting mainly of pudding materials and custard powders, which had become infested with mites.

## WENLOCK M.B.

Tins of various foodstuffs	...	...	...	285 tins
Cheese	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	43 tins
Ham	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Other foods	...	...	...	22 packets

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year a total of 652 cases of infectious disease were notified by medical practitioners, and of these 341 were of Measles and 188 were of Whooping Cough.

No case of Diphtheria was notified in any of the Districts. One case of Acute Poliomyelitis was notified in the Atcham R.D.

Dysentery accounted for 45 notifications, of which number 28 were in the Atcham R.D., where a slight epidemic in a residential nursery school took place.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever, all of which were of a mild type. Of these cases, 14 were in the Atcham R.D., and one in Clun R.D.

At Bishop's Castle there was no notification of any infectious disease throughout the year.

Of the six cases of Food Poisoning, five cases were in one family and were of a mild type. No proof could be obtained which would have indicated what food was involved in these cases.

The following figures show the number of cases notified in each area :—

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1952

Disease	Atcham R.D.	Ch. Stretton U.D.	Clun R.D.	Wenlock M.B.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	14	—	1	—	15
Whooping Cough ...	167	1	17	3	188
Measles ...	216	98	5	22	341
Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	13	21	2	—	36
Dysentery ...	28	16	—	1	45
Para-typhoid ...	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	3
Meningo-coccal Infection ...	1	—	—	2	3
Food Poisoning ...	6	—	—	—	6
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	2	5	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	1	3	5
Totals ...	451	136	29	36	652

The Ministry of Health have stated that in 1952 only 31 deaths from Diphtheria were reported in England and Wales, as compared with between two and three thousand in the average year before

1940. It is still important that all children should be protected before their first birthday, if possible. Publicity in this matter is carried out by the County Health Department.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The following were the numbers of notified cases on the Registers as at 31st December, 1952 :—

Area	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham R.D. ...	41	35	45	44	86	79
Bishop's Castle ...	4	2	2	2	6	4
Church Stretton ...	7	9	9	4	16	13
Clun R.D. ...	21	19	20	20	41	39
Wenlock M.B. ...	39	14	21	30	60	44
<hr/>						
South West Salop ...	112	79	97	100	209	179
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### New Cases Notified

A total of 42 new cases were notified during the year, which total is 11 more than in the previous year. The increase has been mainly as regards male pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases.

The following are the figures for the individual districts :—

Area	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham R.D. ...	7	7	3	3	10	10
Bishop's Castle ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton ...	1	2	1	—	2	2
Clun R.D. ...	2	2	1	1	3	3
Wenlock ...	8	3	1	—	9	3
<hr/>						
South West Salop ...	18	14	6	4	24	18
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### Deaths and Death Rates

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis in the five Districts numbered seven, which is one less than in the previous year. Of these deaths, three were from the pulmonary form of the disease and four from the non-pulmonary form.

The death rates were as follows :—

Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis :	0.060 per 1,000
„ „ Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :	0.081 „
„ „ all forms of Tuberculosis :	0.141 „



The following are the deaths and death rates for the various Districts :—

District		No. of Deaths		Death Rates per 1,000		
		Pul	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.	
Atcham R.D.	...	...	1	2	0.047	0.094
Bishop's Castle	...	...	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton	...	...	—	—	—	—
Clun R.D.	...	...	—	—	—	—
Wenlock M.B.	...	...	2	2	0.133	0.133
			—	—	—	—
S.W. Salop Districts	...	...	3	4	0.060	0.081
			==	==	==	==

As regards the deaths from the non-pulmonary form of the disease, three of the cases were of children who died from Tuberculous Meningitis, and whose ages were  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  and 4 years respectively. This form of the disease is usually due to an early infection acquired from an adult contact in the house who is in an infectious state. The other death from this form was of a man aged 78.

The ages of the persons who died from the pulmonary disease were : males—29 years, and females—46 and 65.

The death rate from all forms of the disease for the five Districts is 0.141 per 1,000 of the population, which is less than in the previous year and is lower than the rate for the country as a whole.

The fight against Tuberculosis has been continued in this country since the disease first became notifiable in 1911. Progress has been slow and not dramatic as in the case of the conquest of Diphtheria, which has practically been eliminated in ten years or so. In 1913 there were 49,476 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis, in 1938 the number was 25,539, and in 1951 the number had fallen to 14,000, of which total 2,000 were from the non-pulmonary form of the disease.

There are therefore definite signs that before very long the disease may be further reduced still further, until it ceases to be a menace to the community. There have been many factors which have helped to reduce the death rate, but perhaps the increase resistance of the population through better feeding has been the chief one. The spread of knowledge regarding the disease being infectious must also have helped, and the isolation of sputum positive cases and their training to avoid being a danger to others has been important. Whatever the causes of the declining death rate, it should be an encouragement to those who are helping in this work to know that so much progress has been made.

## CANCER

The total number of deaths from Cancer was 109. In the previous year the number was 100, and in 1950 it was 79. The rate per 1,000 of the population was 2.213, as compared with a rate of 2.000 in 1951.

Cancer now comes second to diseases of the heart and circulation as a cause of death, and since 1947 the deaths in men from Cancer of the lung and bronchus have increased by 47 per cent. This rapid increase in such a short time has not yet so far been explained.

The following are the figures showing the number of deaths in each of the Districts and the respective death rates :—

District	Deaths		Death Rates per 1,000
	M.	F.	
Atcham R.D. ... ..	14	23	1.707
Bishop's Castle ... ..	6	2	6.144
Church Stretton ... ..	1	5	2.313
Clun R.D. ... ..	10	11	2.195
Wenlock M.B. ... ..	23	14	2.478
	—	—	—
South West Salop ... ..	54	55	2.213
	==	==	==

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1952

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths					
	Atcham R.D.	Bishop's Castle	Church Stretton	Clun R.D.	Wenlock M.B.	S.W. Salop
Disease of Heart and Circulation... ..	81	14	13	37	54	199
Cancer ... ..	37	8	6	21	37	109
Vascular Disease of Nervous System ... ..	36	9	10	8	29	92
Accidents ... ..	9	1	—	6	6	22
Pneumonia ... ..	4	—	—	5	10	19
Bronchitis ... ..	6	—	—	—	8	14
Tuberculosis ... ..	3	—	—	—	4	7
Influenza ... ..	—	—	2	—	2	4
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	—	1	—	—	3
Other Diseases ... ..	36	4	7	16	37	100
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	214	36	39	93	187	569
	==	==	==	==	==	==

From the above figures, it will be seen that 400 out of the total deaths, or 70 per cent, were due to the three causes—Heart Diseases, Cancer, and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System.

Cancer is now the second most common cause of death, after having been in the third place for some years.

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis continues to fall, and is the lowest number so far recorded in any year.

Of the accidents causing death, 12 of the total were motor vehicle accidents. Accidents in the home are chiefly among people in the older age groups or among very young children. In the country as a whole they exceed the number of road accidents.

It will be observed that there are now very few deaths from notifiable infectious diseases, which formerly took a considerable toll of young lives.



